

**To:** Biesecker, Michael[MBiesecker@ap.org]  
**Cc:** Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]  
**From:** Daguiard, Robert  
**Sent:** Tue 8/18/2015 12:00:06 AM  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: EPA Statement on Colorado data from Gold King Mine Release

Thank you, Michael, for sharing your thoughts. I've passed them on to my superiors.

Best, R.

**From:** Biesecker, Michael [mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2015 4:16 PM  
**To:** Daguiard, Robert  
**Cc:** Milbourn, Cathy  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: EPA Statement on Colorado data from Gold King Mine Release

Robert,

I got a response from Christie St. Clair over the weekend, six days after the questions were submitted. She did not provide the requested spreadsheets that includes the standards. She also did not respond to a follow up question asking for clarification as to whether it is the agency's position that no such spreadsheets exist (which would be surprising), or whether you all are simply choosing not to provide it.

The agency did release one batch of sediment samples over the weekend, but again with no comparison data of what the pre-event levels of contamination were in the river.

I will again point out that the way the agency is disseminating this information falls we short of the standard for transparency that Administrator McCarthy set in her public statements in the wake of the spill. The Associated Press plans to chronicle and reflect that in our coverage.

Michael

**From:** Daguillard, Robert [<mailto:Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2015 4:04 PM  
**To:** Biesecker, Michael  
**Cc:** Milbourn, Cathy  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: EPA Statement on Colorado data from Gold King Mine Release

Hey Matt,

Just to let you know that we weren't ignoring your query, but rather that your e-mail ended up in my junk folder – no idea why that happened. Have you since gotten the info you needed? Happy to follow-up with our folks in Durango if not. Please advise.

Thanks, R.

**From:** Biesecker, Michael [<mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 10:35 AM  
**To:** Daguillard, Robert  
**Cc:** Milbourn, Cathy  
**Subject:** FW: RELEASE: EPA Statement on Colorado data from Gold King Mine Release

Robert,

Do you all have a version of this spreadsheet with the exceedances marked? Also, please provide the key or map for the sampling locations. Some are only indicated on the spreadsheet with a code.

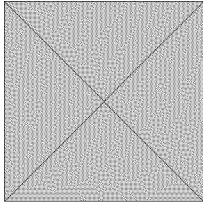
Also, is the EPA currently conducting sediment sampling? If so, when does the agency expect to make those results available?

And lastly, why did the agency choose to make these available at 2:11 am EST?

Thanks,

Michael

**From:** U.S. EPA Media Relations [<mailto:noreply-subscriptions@epa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 2:11 AM  
**To:** Biesecker, Michael  
**Subject:** RELEASE: EPA Statement on Colorado data from Gold King Mine Release



**CONTACT:**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 12, 2015

## **EPA Statement on Colorado data from Gold King Mine Release**

**DURANGO, Colo.** – To assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado, water quality samples were collected at numerous intervals beginning on Aug. 5, 2015. Samples were taken prior to the plume's arrival to establish a baseline for water quality comparisons. Each surface water sample was analyzed for 24 metals, including arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury.

Analysis now shows that water quality for the Animas River from the Silverton, Colo. area to the Durango municipal water intake has returned to pre-event water quality levels. These results are based on validated sampling data collected from Aug. 5 to Aug. 9, 2015.

EPA has shared this data with state, local and tribal officials in Colorado to assist them in their decisions regarding the on-going use of water resources. EPA plans to continue to monitor, analyze and share data for downstream river segments as it becomes available.

To view the surface water summary table:  
[http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-08/q\\_surfacewatersummarytable\\_08-12-15\\_0900.xlsx](http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-08/q_surfacewatersummarytable_08-12-15_0900.xlsx)

For additional information on the response to the Gold King Mine release [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine)

If you would rather not receive future communications from Environmental Protection Agency, let us know by clicking [here](#).  
Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460 United States

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